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DEBRIEFING REPORT

25X1A

25X1A

NAME :

DATE OF DEBRIEF : 31 January 1972

NAME OF DEBRIEFER:

25X1A

SUBJECT : 7 December 1954 through 31 January 1955 the B-29 crew (the so-called "Arnold Crew") continues for the month spent in a temporary cell in isolation in a Woman's cell block during which the propaganda photo sessions were made with the Arnold Crew before their departure.

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On the morning of 7 December the interpreter came to  cell telling him to gather all of his belongings and prepare to move. He was taken to another cell block in the same section of the prison where a door was opened and he walked in to a large cell. There were five Americans in prison uniform all of whom stood up and looked at him with surprise. They stood and stared at each other until suddenly both the group of crew men and  started talking at the same time. Each time one would ask, "Who are you?" the others were asking the same question at the same time. They all laughed at their inability to get a conversation started and finally Howard Brown, flight engineer of the crew introduced himself and the rest of the men in the room. The crew said that they had been on a B-29 shot down on 9 January 1953.

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**OSD HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND  
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25X1A [ ] told them that the names were familiar to him because his Chinese cell mate had read an article about them in the Chinese newspaper. He told them, however, that the article said it was a C-47 dropping agents and supplies. [ ] told 25X1A them that the article also said that three of them had been killed when their parachutes did not open in time. This was the first knowledge that the crew had in regards to what happened to the three missing members. The crew said they had been dropping propaganda leaflets in the Korean language on five targets in Korea and they were angry about the other Chinese allegations. Some of them thought they had been shot down in China, others thought they had been shot down close to the border but still in North Korea. They told him that they had already been sentenced (as it turned out on the same day that [ ] and [ ] had) with the enlisted men getting 25X1A four years, the officers getting six, the major eight and the Colonel himself getting ten.

25X1A [ ] told them only that he and another fellow by the name of [ ] were civilians who had been shot down in 25X1A Northeast China and that the two pilots with them had been killed.

25X1A As this was happening one of the crew men at the door spotted [ ] being taken into the cell across the corridor which contained the officers. [ ] and [ ] then waved to 25X1A each other through the openings in the door. Spirits among

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the crew were all very high. It appeared that from the time they arrived in Peking the crew had been kept in solitary confinement until about May 1953. They were then put in cells with two or three to a cell until December 1954. They had been moved into these cells on the same day [ ] was put 25X1A with them. They therefore were elated to be together and thought that it was a good omen.

The conversation during the first day was largely personal data. The crew talked a lot about its mission and all were consistent in saying that they had done nothing but drop Korean language leaflets. They seemed to resent the fact that Colonel Arnold was aboard and felt that their long confinement was partially due to his presence.

25X1A This is where [ ] first found out about the end of the Korean War and about the prisoner releases. He gorged himself on news of the world series, boxing results, football games and a hundred other topics. The crew itself had received letters from home and this made him think that he might soon be able to write.

25X1A The following day the group from across the hall was brought in to the same cell. This group of ten crew members plus [ ] and [ ] was then given a speech by the interpreter. They were told that the doors would remain open and that the groups were free to visit each other. They were told that they would be able to go to the toilet any time they

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wanted although there was to be no singing or shouting among the group. There was only one guard at the end of the corridor. A ping pong table was set up in the corridor and a number of communist books and magazines were placed in the cells. They were told they were supposed to read these materials and discuss them but this was never enforced.

It was then announced that everybody would be allowed to write their family once a month. They were to write only to direct family members. They were not to discuss their case and they were not to discuss prison conditions. They were then told that they would be allowed to exercise every-day. Upon the request of the crew they even received playing cards. Packages had arrived for crew members, clothing and other necessities were given to them but not food. They were told that in their mail they were not allowed to request packages.

As soon as this meeting was over [ ] wrote a letter to his wife. However, he had put in a reference to the B-29 crew and about one week later the letter was returned. He then rewrote it and gave it back. 25X1A

Some of the small details as to the sequences of the events of the shoot down [ ] and [ ] disagreed with which gave the crew some amusement. [ ] says that he feels that [ ] may, for the first few minutes, have been a little more stunned than he [ ] was. 25X1A 25X1A 25X1A

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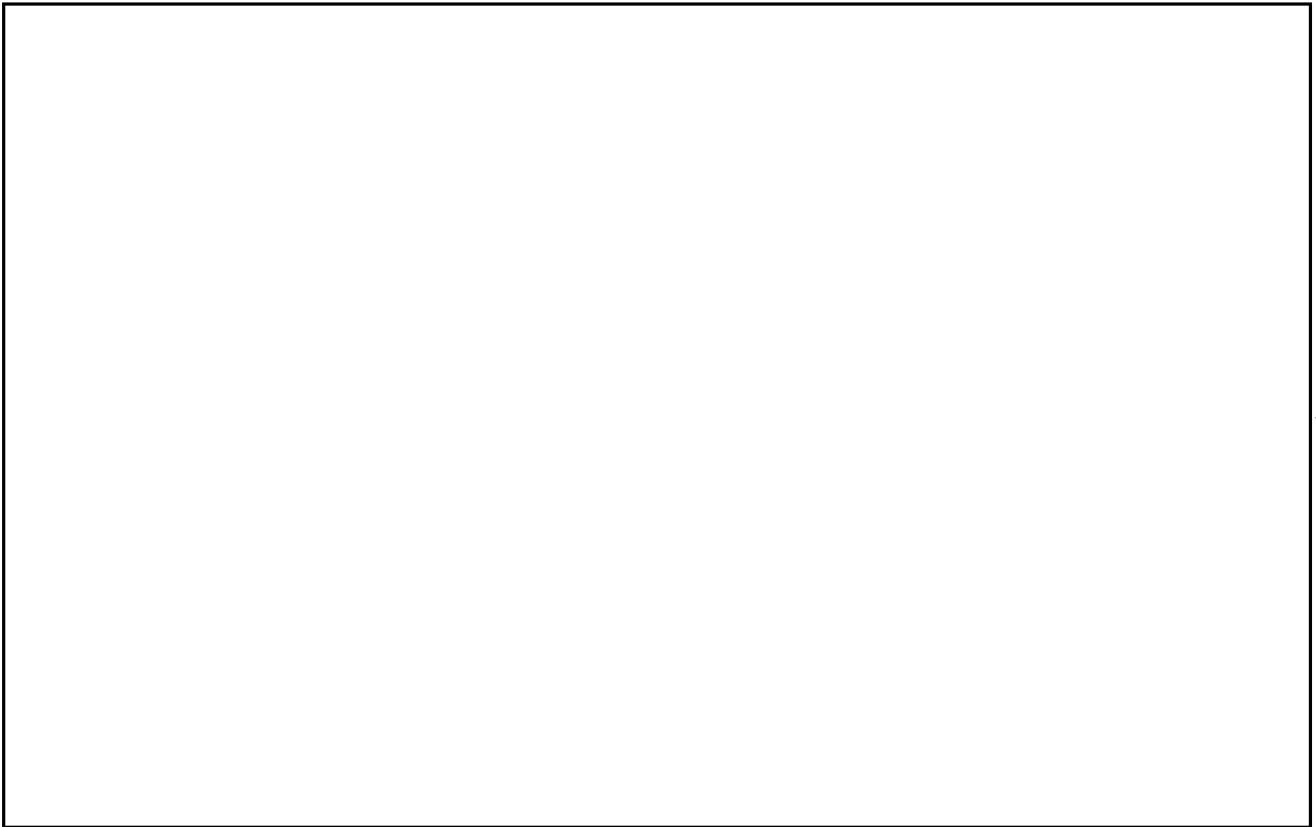
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The three weeks spent here with the crew were wonderful by comparison with normal prison life. The food was of excellent quality and the quantity was unlimited. [ ] stuffed himself. He gained probably 15 pounds during this time. The guards (whom he had never seen in his cell block) were extremely friendly and non-demanding. They even had a guard to tend the coal stove which was in the cell. Hot water was available on top of the stove anytime anybody wanted water for washing. All-in-all the freedom, the good food and the conversation made the weeks go by much too fast.

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[ ] tried to quiz each one of the crew members as to the

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kinds of interrogation they had received. He felt that he might well be subjected to more in the future and he wanted to benefit by any tricks or methods used on the B-29 crew. His impression is that none of them had received any physical mistreatment but that each had cooperated to a degree which made them a little embarrassed to discuss the subject, most of them were a bit evasive. He came away with a clear impression, however, that the solitary confinement had been extremely difficult for all of them and that this alone had been sufficient to loosen their tongues a little. He also discovered that the Chinese had pitted the statements of crew men against each other, with a fair degree of success.

25X1A      The crew members conducted themselves in a much more aggressive, cocky and arrogant manner with respect to the guards, than [ ] thought was wise. It was [ ] feeling      25X1A that this was so much better than prison conditions had been and could be that it was unwise "to rock the boat". However, the crew constantly complained to the guards and staff and interpreters about the lack of packages and mail. They were particularly angry at their interpreter who had inferred there would be a Christmas celebration with chicken and peanuts. When he was unable to produce the crew screamed at him, called him a liar and were really angry. This behavior was probably partially due to the fact that they were together and gathering

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strength as a group and also because their treatment had been pretty good. It was upsetting to [ ] who thought they were taking a chance of spoiling a good thing. 25X1A

This three week honeymoon came to an end on the morning of 28 December 1954. The group was called together for a meeting and the interpreter "Bugs Bunny" (so called because of his prominent buck teeth) announced that because of the overcrowded cells, two men were going to have to be moved and bunked together. (It was true that with six in each of these cells it was crowded but there were, nevertheless, empty cells on the same block.) The group immediately assumed that two men would move down the cell block to another cell and a couple of men even volunteered to do so. The volunteers, however, were ignored. It was announced that [ ] and [ ] would leave. This was greeted by a group moan. The interpreter assured the group, however, that they would continue to see them and exercise with them. This turned out to be true. 25X1A

[ ] and [ ] got all their belongings together and went to another cell block and into a cell where there were two cots. They were sorry to leave the other men but felt that being together was certainly going to be a great improvement. This lasted only one hour. At the end of that hour, the interpreter announced that [ ] would leave for another cell. [ ] was afraid that he would be going back to the "solitary" block. 25X1A

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While in this cell, on the 9th of January, they told him they wanted to take some photographs of him to send to his family. They brought in a new padded suit and gave him a hair cut (shaved all of his hair except his eyebrows) and brought in three foot high horses for his pallet (a great improvement because now he could sit on it). They put candy, tangerines, apples and a book on the table and then told him to sit down for picture taking. They did this and took several photographs. He in return took the apples, tangerines, candy, etc. and hid

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25X1A      them under his quilt believing that the guards would take them back. Later that day, he was taken outside with the B-29 crew for photos. Before he left he was given the same rules about not shouting, singing, etc., and was taken out to an area of the prison normally used for soldier's recreation area. Here the group played volleyball and engaged in exercise, all of which was filmed with movie cameras. That was when ☐ first saw Colonel Arnold. Then all were taken back to their cells.

Later that night the whole group was lined up and given a physical examination. It was at this time (9 January 1955) that a nurse told him that he had trachoma in one eye. They were then taken into a mess hall where they engaged in playing cards and ping pong for the benefit of the photographers. Canned goods from the packages from the States were in evidence on the tables. The whole group was then given a large Chinese meal which was photographed. Before they had quite finished things were removed and a meal made from the American canned goods was put out and they ate a second meal and were photographed again.

They were then given a big speech about the lenient treatment of the Peoples Republic of China and some things were said to the effect that "when the group got home they were to tell the U. S. people about this policy." Everybody's expectations for release of course, went sky high. When they broke up to be taken back to the cells, the group stuffed their pockets

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with all the canned goods and goodies they could reach.

In sitting down at one of the tables for the picture taking,

25X1A [ ] purposely moved beside Colonel Arnold. The crew had

25X1A told Arnold that he, [ ] and [ ] were [ ] Arnold

immediately started telling [ ] that the [ ] should have

not told him as much as they did. He said that he had been

beaten during interrogation. [ ] put the two remarks

together and deduced that the Colonel had divulged what he

25X1A knew about [ ] [ ] also feels that Arnold was not

beaten.

25X1A [ ] knows that a number of Chinese prison authorities

were given a sentence when it was discovered that Chinese

prisoners had been beaten in their prison. [ ] feels that

the Chinese concern for their image before the world in terms  
of lenient treatment of prisoners would not allow them to beat  
any prisoner who might go out into the world to talk about it.

25X1A [ ] thinks that if they actually did beat a prisoner badly

they would not let him go to tell anybody about it. This was

25X1A the last time that [ ] had any formal contact with the crew.

25X1A [ ] stayed in this same cell until approximately the

end of February 1955. He feels his stay was short because of

a couple of disciplinary infractions. The crew would occasional-  
ly come into the court yard near his cell to wash and hang their  
clothes, and he was caught talking with them. He was also, at

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